

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, Alva Clifford Groves, a resident of Four States, Marion County, West Virginia, was born the twenty-ninth day of May, Nineteen Hundred Thirty-Two, in Crown, Monongalia County, West Virginia, the son of Alva Groves and Alta Hite Groves; and

WHEREAS, Alva Clifford Groves attended the public schools of Monongalia County, West Virginia, was an employee of Pitrolo Pontiac, Fairmont, West Virginia, and enlisted in the United States Army on the nineteenth day of September, Nineteen Hundred Forty-Nine; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Groves received basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington and, on the nineteenth day of August, Nineteen Hundred Fifty, was deployed to serve in North Korea as a member of D Company, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, on the twenty-seventh day of November, Nineteen Hundred Fifty, the 38th Infantry Regiment, while defending the town of Kujang-dong, North Korea, engaged in a battle at Pyongan Province, and following the regiment's withdrawal from the battle, Private First Class Groves was reported as missing in action, and it was later learned that he had been captured by opposing forces; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Groves was imprisoned at Pyokdong County, North Pyongan Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and, after the war ended in July of Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Three, it was learned that he had suffered an illness and died while in captivity on the fourteenth day of April, Nineteen Hundred Fifty-One;

WHEREAS, between Nineteen Hundred Ninety and Nineteen Hundred Ninety-Four, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea returned to the United States remains that reportedly were those of United States servicemen that had been missing in action and, after years of investigation and DNA analysis by the military, the remains of Private First Class Groves were identified; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Alva Groves was posthumously promoted to the rank of Corporal, and through his service and sacrifice was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with Two Bronze Service Stars, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea War Service Medal, and Combat Infantryman Badge; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Alva Groves is survived by his sister, Lillian Anderson of Fairmont, West Virginia; his nieces and nephews: James Paul Pitts, Betty Marks, Shelby Keener, Pamela Walker, Gary Craig, Thomas Huskin, Byron Anderson, Terry Hill, and United States Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Sandra Buswink, who was instrumental in arranging his return home; those surviving Corporal Groves at the time of his death who have since passed away are his brothers and sisters Audra Luzader, Virginia Crim, Haseltine Ray, Hildred Kincaid, Mildred Parrish, and Ernestene Huskin, and his two nephews, David Groves and Robert L. Kincaid, Jr.; he was preceded in death by his father, Alva Groves; his mother, Alta Hite Groves, and his brother, Harold Groves; and

WHEREAS, on the fifth day of August, Two Thousand Fourteen, more than sixty years after his death, the remains of Corporal Alva Clifford Groves were returned to his native land at Pittsburgh International Airport, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was met by his family, friends, and military personnel; and

WHEREAS, following dignified transfer ceremonies conducted planeside by an Honor Guard from Fort Meade, Maryland, Corporal Groves was escorted by his family, friends, military personnel, and the Patriot Guard Riders to Shinnston, West Virginia, where, on the

seventh day of August, Nineteen Hundred Fourteen, the West Virginia Army National Guard Honor Team will conduct committed services and full military rites at his services, and will escort him, along with the Patriot Guard Riders, to the West Virginia National Cemetery, Pruntytown, West Virginia, where he will be laid to rest; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Alva Groves made the supreme sacrifice for his country in a foreign land and brought honor to his family, the citizens of West Virginia, and his country, and this native son has now returned home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EARL RAY TOMBLIN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that on the seventh day of August, Two Thousand Fourteen, all United States and State Flags displayed at all State facilities throughout the State shall be displayed at half-staff from dawn to dusk, the day of services for Corporal Alva Clifford Groves.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fourteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Second year of the State.

Earl Ray Tomblin
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

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SECRETARY OF STATE